

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5442

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SUBJECT: MAYOR LINDSAY VISITS MOSCOW

1. AT INVITATION OF MAYOR V. F. PROMYSLOV, MAYOR AND MRS. LINDSAY VISITED USSR DURING PERIOD MAY 3-9. LINDSAYS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE AIDES AND THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF NEW YORK' S JEWISH COMMUNITY WHO NOT CONSIDERED BY SOVIETS AS MEMBERS OF OFFICIAL DELEGATION. IN ADDITION TO MOSCOW, LINDSAYS ALSO SPENT TWO DAYS IN LENINGRAD.

2. ACCORDING TO STAFF, LINDSAY HAD THREE OBJECTIVES DURING USSR VISIT: A. TO EXPLORE SOVIET URBAN DEVELOPMENT; B. TO SEEK EXPANDED TIES BETWEEN MOSCOW AND NEW YORK; AND C. TO INVESTIGATE THE QUESTION OF SOVIET JEWRY. MEETINGS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS IN BOTH MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD AS WELL AS APPOINTMENTS WITH CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS KOSYGIN AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS SHUMILIN ENABLED LINDSAY TO ACHIEVE HIS GOALS. IN ADDITIONAL TO FORMAL MEETINGS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS, LINDSAY MET WITH AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN RESIDENT IN MOSCOW AND WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE BLACKWELL, WHO CONDUCTING MARITIME NEGOTIATIONS IN MOSCOW. ADDITIONALLY, LINDSAY AND AIDES HAD THREE HOUR PRIVATE MEETING EVENING MAY 8 WITH GROUP OF SEVEN MOSCOW JEWS SEEKING TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL.

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3. ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT LEVEL, MAYORS LINDSAY PROMYSLOV AGREED TO FORMATION OF UNOFFICIAL JOINT NEW YORK- MOSCOW CHAMBER WITH STATED AIM OF SEEKING TO BROADEN TIES BETWEEN TWO CITIES IN ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, CULTURAL, TOURISTIC, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SPHERES. MAYOR PROMYSLOV WILL DESIGNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO VISIT NEW YORK IN NEAR FUTURE FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSIONS ON FORMATION AND WORK OF CHAMBER. MAYOR LINDSAY INDICATED THAT HE WILL ASK DAVID ROCKEFELLER TO SERVE AS NEW YORK CO- CHAIRMAN OF CHAMBER.

4. FROM SOVIET VANTAGE POINT, MOST SENSITIVE PART OF VISIT WAS MAYOR'S INTEREST IN JEWISH QUESTION AND PRESENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NEW YORK JEWISH COMMUNITY IN LINDSAY PARTY. INITIALLY SOVIETS SNUBBED JEWISH REPRESENTATIVES, BUT WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THEY RESPONSIVE TO LINDSAY WISHES AND GUIDANCE, SOVIETS BEGAN TO INCLUDE THEM IN PROGRAMMING. FOR HIS PART, MAYOR INFORMED SOVIET HOSTS WHENEVER ANY MEMBERS OF THIS PARTY HAD CONTACT WITH MOSCOW OR LENINGRAD JEWS. AFTER MAYOR HAD AGREED TO MEETING WITH MOSCOW JEWS, HE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH MAYOR PROMYSLOV WHO RECOMMENDED THAT MEETING TAKE PLACE AT HOTEL RATHER THAN IN PRIVATE APARTMENT. (THIS FIRST TIME THAT SOVIETS HAVE TACITLY SANCTIONED MEETING BETWEEN DISSIDENT SOVIET JEWS AND VISITING AMERICAN OFFICIAL.)

5. AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT, SOVIETS INDICATED THEY CLEARLY SATISFIED WITH ITS RESULTS. GOOD RAPPORT WAS OBVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED BETWEEN LINDSAY AND PROMYSLOV, AND SOVIETS HAD HIGH MEASURE OF RESPECT FOR HONESTY AND FRANKNESS OF LINDSAY, PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATED TO HIS HANDLING OF JEWISH QUESTION. DUBS

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